



PHOTOGRAPHY/ RAVELL CALL

Cattle ranchers get an early start in a dusty sunrise near Hanksville, one of the driest areas in the state. Ranging cattle have kicked up the dust.

# Cattle farmers hoping for big year are sunk by drought, range cutbacks

■ **Southern Utah:** Farmers could face financial disaster despite high beef prices. Reservoirs dangerously low.

By **Jerry Spangler**  
Deseret News staff writer 6-5-90

Garfield County cattle rancher Burns Black had counted on a big year. With beef prices higher than they've been in many, many years, Black and other ranchers across southern Utah were all hoping to cash in on a financial bonanza.

Instead, Black will be running 25 percent fewer cattle on the Escalante Mountain this summer. And that means a loss of about \$8,000 when it comes time to sell

the cows.

Black is one of the lucky ranchers. The drought, now in its third year in southern Utah, has reached disastrous proportions with many farmers unwilling to plant their crops and most ranchers being forced to cut their herds by up to 50 percent, occasionally even more.

Grazing on some Bureau of Land Management range lands has been eliminated.

"Even a 20 to 30 percent cutback to a cattleman is like cutting someone else's salary by 20 to 30 percent and still requiring the same amount of work of them," said Vince Pace, range conservationist with the Fishlake National Forest. "For those carrying a real heavy debt load, that could be disastrous. We could start seeing people losing their homes and farms."

The drought has hit Utah ranchers at a particularly bad time. Beef prices are holding unusually high — a rare event that often spells economic salvation to ranchers forced to carry large loans in those years when cattle prices are soft. They depend on good years to retire the debt.

"A large number of ranchers aren't going to be able to capture the earnings potential they had counted on," said Bob Meinrod, a forest range officer with the Dixie National Forest. "They are having to cut back on production when prices are the highest they've been in years. I can understand why some are upset."

The drought — which experts say rivals the floods of 1983 in terms of economic

Please see DRY on B2

## Measuring dryness

The Palmer index is a standard measure of moisture in the soils over a long period of time. Anything below -4.0 is considered an extreme drought, while anything above 4.0 is considered an extreme wet.

### In Utah:

The Dixie region	-5.3.
The West Desert region	-5.1.
The South-Central region	-5.7
The Southeastern region	-6.4.

### By comparison:

Southern California	-7
Grand Junction area	-8.9
Southeastern Idaho	-6.6
Boise area	-3.9



*Ornery natures become tribal assets when the reservation's wild horses are*

*rounded up for branding—with the unruliest separated out as rodeo broncos.*



**Catching up with their past**, youngsters learn bow-and-arrow basics from Leah Conner at Warm Springs Elementary School (above). First woman on the tribal police force, Vickie Still (below) has since put her gun away to work as a court investigator, mostly with young people. Beset with the universal problems of youth apathy and delinquency, the reservation invests much money and hope in its counseling programs.



pots and pans, some bags of seed grain, and a schoolteacher and a doctor, and told them to become farmers.

They tried it. Had to. But today they're better as ranchers. And loggers and sawmill workers. And now, resort operators.

"We need the white man today," one patriarch told me. "But we're trying to keep from becoming too much like him, trying to stay Indian."

Forty-one years ago, when the Indians opted for self-government, their baseline was poverty. Today they're financially better off than many white Americans of the desert around them.

#### Feasibility Study Paved the Way

"This is the most viable Indian society in the country," says James Cornett of the U. S. Bureau of Indian Affairs; veteran superintendent of the reservation, he should know.

"When they settled with the U. S. in 1958 for the loss of their fishing grounds on the Columbia River, they didn't just divide up the four million dollars. They spent 100,000 dollars to have Oregon State University make an economic feasibility study of their reservation. They bought a sawmill and a plywood plant. Then they built the lodge, and now they're talking about building a 30-million-dollar hydroelectric plant on the Deschutes River."

The confederation's gross annual income from timber, lumber, plywood, tourism, and investments has soared to nearly 50 million dollars. Profits last year provided a monthly dividend of 75 dollars for every man, woman, and child, plus a Christmas bonus of 1,200 dollars each!

Tribal members receive pensions beginning at age 60. At all ages, they benefit from tribal funds—added to federal and state loans and grants—for medical and psychiatric care, alcohol and drug therapy, educational and vocational training. Low-interest loans are helping to replace the tar-paper shacks of the past with modern houses and mobile homes.

"They've learned to adapt to the ways of the outside," Jim Cornett adds. "They know they can't have it again the way it was before

and cultural center as a focus for it.

No one qualifies to receive tribal welfare unless he's sick, or very old or very young. Although elders push the proposition that every able-bodied Indian should be employed, the work-ethic philosophy is admittedly no earthshaking success among Warm Springs men and women. The five-day workweek is still an exotic import from "white-man country." For thousands of years on the Columbia River, their ancestors worked only when there was game to be killed or salmon to be caught. That left lots of time for eating, singing, games, dancing, religion, and festivals.

I was perched on a corral fence with Allen Elston, a white Southern Baptist minister for 19 years at Warm Springs. Allen had been down in the dust with his Indian friends, roping and branding wild horses; the wildest were being separated out as broncos to be rented to rodeos across the Northwest. It had taken Allen nearly ten years, he told me, to realize why a formal type of Christian ministry had failed on the reservation.

"I'd been trying to superimpose values from my own society on the Indians, my own ideas about how to worship God. It finally dawned on me that the Good Lord wasn't keeping a stopwatch on the Baptists any more than He was on the Indians. So we changed everything. Now we only conduct services the way it's natural for Indians."

Church starts when everybody gets there and is ready. Indian time. And stops when everybody is ready to go home. It's the same way with dozens of self-government committees, tribal council sessions, and general council meetings for all citizens too.

It's slow. But it's democracy, and it works. At Warm Springs they haven't made work a total virtue, nor time a taskmaster. That's not to say, of course, that contemporary problems have vanished.

The tribal council has decreed that no liquor or beer may be sold on the reservation, except at Kah-nee-ta, but that hasn't broken the alcoholism that pervades so much of Indian society, from grade school through old age.



# **PEDIATRIC-OBSTETRIC UPDATE, SEPTEMBER 7-9 1990**

## **HOLIDAY INN, MISSOULA, MONTANA**

### **FRIDAY, September 7**

- 12:00-1:00PM **Registration - Holiday Inn**
- 1:00-1:45PM **THE CRITICALLY-ILL NEWBORN** Moderator: Ted Laine, M.D.  
**High Tech Ventilation: HFJV, ECMO and Surfactant**  
 •update on application of new and alternative means for ventilation/oxygenation  
 •discussion of mechanism of surfactant's action  
 •who should be ECMO candidates?
- 1:45-2:30PM **Home and Community Management of BPD**  
 •recommendations and approach to diuretic and aerosol therapy in BPD patients  
 •oxygen therapy and weaning considerations  
 •cost effective ways to optimize nutrition
- 2:30-3:15PM **Neonatal Seizures**  
 •pathophysiology and clinical recognition of neonatal seizures  
 •evaluation of patient with neonatal seizures  
 •treatment of neonatal seizures
- 3:15-3:30PM **Panel Discussion with Drs. Dolcourt, Pfeffer and Thompson**
- 3:30-3:45PM **Break**
- 3:45-4:30PM **INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND IMMUNOLOGY** Moderator: Duncan Hubbard, M.D.  
**Designer Antibiotics**  
 •the changing world of microorganisms  
 •spectrum of activity of the newer agents  
 •newer agents versus older agents: do we need to switch?
- 4:30-5:15PM **Does IVIG Have a Role in the Newborn**  
 •learn potential adjunctive therapies for neonatal infection, and determine the role of IVIG administration in treatment and prophylaxis of neonatal bacterial infection  
 •understand the hazard of IVIG administration and the potential benefits in neonates
- 5:15-6:00PM **The Dilemma of Maternal Group B Streptococcal Colonization**  
 •which obstetric patients should be cultured; when and where?  
 •which obstetric patients should be treated; when and with what?  
 •should we treat all colonized infants?  
 •what is the role of GBS-vaccines? IVIG? prophylactic antibiotics
- 6:00-6:30PM **Panel Discussion with Drs. Christenson, Hill, and Varner**
- 6:30-7:00PM **Break/Informal Mixer**
- 7:00-9:00PM **Banquet**  
**Use and Misuse of the Apgar Score**  
**Obstetrical Antecedent of Cerebral Palsy**  
 •predictability of Apgar scores for later neurologic disability  
 •physiologic effect of asphyxia upon the neonatal brain  
 •AAP criteria for linking cerebral hypoxia to cerebral palsy  
 •how reassuring are tests for fetal wellbeing?

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### **SATURDAY, September 8**

- 7:00AM **Continental Breakfast**
- 7:30-8:30AM **NOT SO ROUTINE - OBSTETRICS I** Moderator: Marietta Cross, R.N.  
**Viral Diseases in Pregnancy**  
 •current recommendations for serologic screening in pregnancy  
 •the role of amniocentesis and/or cordocentesis  
 •long-term prognoses of fetuses exposed to viral infections
- 8:30-9:30AM **Premature Rupture of the Membranes**  
 •current controversies in the management of premature rupture of the membranes

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